

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the above-mentioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and following discussion.

1. Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,534,010 (Peterson). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. Claim 26 has been amended and now defines the first and third sections of the present invention as integrally formed as a one piece construction with the second section. This feature more clearly distinguishes the present invention from that of the Peterson reference which discloses a second section comprised of multiple filaments 48 connected between an end of tape strip 18 and an end of tape strip 14. Accordingly it is requested that claim 26 as twice amended be passed to allowance.
2. Claim 32 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 32 has been amended according to the examiner's suggestion. Claim 32 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.
3. Newly presented independent claim 118 is similar to amended claim 32 with the exception of the laminated construction of the first and third sections. Newly added claims 118 – 124, inclusive, are believed to present patentable subject matter.

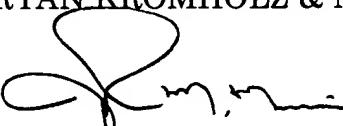
4. Claims 33 - 40, inclusive, 42 - 54, inclusive, and 104 - 117, inclusive, are allowed.
5. Applicant respectfully requests that the objections and rejections be removed that amended claims 26 and 32, and newly added claims 118 - 124, inclusive, be passed to allowance along with claims 33 - 40, 42 - 54, and 104 - 117, inclusive.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
Clean set of claims
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Serial No.: 09/616,870

Clean set of claims for Amendment C dated 3 December 2001

Atty. Docket No. 8115.12394A-PCT US DIV2

Claim 26 (twice amended)

A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the second section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon; and wherein the second section includes a first linear margin and a second linear margin; the first section being integrally formed as a one piece construction with the second section at the first margin; and the third section being integrally formed as a one piece construction with the second section at the second margin.

Claim 32 (once amended)

A dressing mechanism comprising: a first section, a second section, and a third section; the first section being coupled to the second section and the second section being coupled to the third section; the second section comprising an elastic material; the first section and the third section each having a first side; and a predetermined portion of the first side including an adhesive located thereon; and wherein the second section includes a first linear margin and a second linear margin; the first section being integral to the second section at the first margin; and the third section being integral to the second section at the second margin; and

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wherein the first section and the third section are laminated materials
comprising a first layer, a second intermediate layer, and a third layer; the
third layer including the first side.
